

Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, Dec. 14, 2015

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Volunteer Fire Company by Mayor Harry Ward. Council members present were Bill Krause, Kathleen Lock, Bob Wood and Amy Parker. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

2. Welcoming & Announcements

Mayor Ward thanked everyone for their support.

3. Approval of the Dec. 14, 2015 meeting agenda

Motion: *A motion was made by Kathleen Lock to approve the Dec. 14 2015, meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Amy Parker. **The motion carried unanimously, 5 – 0.***

4. Approval of the Nov. 09, 2015 Town meeting minutes

Motion: *A motion was made by Amy Parker to approve the Nov. 09 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill krause. **The motion carried 5-0.***

5. Review of Town Audit

The Town financials were audited by Sombar and Assoc and Tom Sombar made the presentation to the town. He said the audit looked good for last year and that the town had increased its' assets by about 16 %.

He suggested that we pay whatever we can from the restricted funds and that would help to increase the General Fund.

He also suggested that have PNC Bank collateralize the town's money on a monthly basis to whatever our balance is because we are above the FDIC max of \$250,000. This is already in process.

6. Reports

a) Treasurer

*Kathy Lock presented the Nov, 2015, Treasurer's Report, prepared by bookkeeper Jennifer Cornell. Mayor Ward referred everyone to the handout copies that were provided prior to the meeting. **Motion:** Amy Parker made a motion to approve the October 2015 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Bill Krause seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.***

b) Building Enforcement Officer/ Floodplain Administrator

Mayor Ward presented the Building Enforcement/Floodplain Administrator's written report. There was a lot of activity again this month with 10.25 hours spent on Building enforcement involving 2 different properties and 4.25 hours on Floodplain matters. There is just one small item that remains from the 2013 CAV review. The town, Homeowner and FEMA are working to resolve the issue.

Motion: *Kathleen Lock made a motion to approve the Nov Building Enforcement Officer/Floodplain Administrator's report. Bill Krause seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0***

c) Tax Collector Report

We currently have just \$1,360.00 in taxes yet to collect for this year which ends in June 2016.

Motion: *Amy Parker made a motion to approve the Nov. tax collector report. Kathleen Lock seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.***

d) Town Street Committee report

- i. *Mr. Dalton reported that he has received prices for shelling Passwater, Sand Piper Marina Drive and White Gull. The best price by far was from Paul Watts paving @ \$5,050.00 the other 2 contractors were Grisley Paving @ \$13,000 for shelling Passwater only and \$12,000.00 from Jerry's paving for crush n run for Passwater only.*

Motion: *A motion was made by Amy Parker to approve the Watts Bid going forward with this project. The motion was seconded by Kathy Lock. **The motion carried 5-0.***

- ii. *Council will discuss the current situation with the Delaware Launch Service and try to restructure our agreement with them.*
- iii. *Wildlife Cert. Sign has been installed.*
- iv. *MPH sign – The seal failed on one of the MPH signs. Jimmy contacted the manufacturer and they offered us a new sign @ \$1999.00 (original cost was \$2,600.00) Jimmy would like to explore other options before we make any commitments.*

V *NWF Sign - Post have been installed for the NWF Sign. Sign will be installed soon.*

VI *Interpretive Sign- New signs are being installed at the pavilion and at Marvel drive area.*

Vii *A sign was installed at the pavilion requesting any group of 10 or more register with the town.*

Viii *There have been several incidents of dumping lately, mostly in the marsh. Council urges citizens should be proactive on this issue when they observe any dumping.*

e) Mayoral and Council Updates

1- We want to reaffirm our commitment to the Monarch Butterfly Pledge in both being aware of they plight and education opportunities when they arise.

2- Gaither and establish documentation for the next election cycle in July.

8. **Old Business**

a) **Grants**

USDA Grant

Kathy Lock reported that award of the USDA Search grant will be approved for \$30,000.00. This grant will fund the wastewater study which will study the process of bringing a sewer line to town. It appears that this will be funded, just waiting for the bill to be finished in congress....

✓ **2016 Delaware Coastal Programs Grant.**

Council voted to apply for the DNREC Resiliency Grant which will award one town \$75,000.00 to partner with the state with moving a town forward after a disaster. This grant will study what steps can be taken to protect a town for these events. Receiving this grant would help our community rating with FEMA and could also lower FEMA flood Insurance rate once certified We have a lot of organizations backing us in this process We should receive the results sometime after 1-11-2016

Motion: *A motion was made by Kathy Lock to apply for this grant. The motion was seconded by Bill krause. **The motion carried 5-0.***

✓ **Town Park 2014 Grant**

Our Attorney found that there is a 3 year warranty and is waiting for a reply from the contractor.

✓ **Sussex County Shared Safety Grant**

Amy Parker noted that Police patrols have started and we will try to get a schedule out once it has been established

Phragmites Grant has been approved for \$6,300.00 we may want to conduct an outreach meeting in the early spring. We also received a 5 year permit for spraying on the beachside.

b) Memorandum of Understanding with Sussex County (Flood Plain)

The MOU has been approved. Just waiting for Sussex to sign and return a Copy.

c) Bayside drainage Initiative

Please see the town website for details on this project. DNREC will visit the town to take a tour after the first of the year.

d) DNREC Regulations - Shoreline update

As reported in the last minutes, we were concerned about 3 sections of the new shoreline regulations and wanted clarification on each.

a.1- *Regulation on existing home upgrades and the process.*

2- *The expansion of shoreline reg's back 3 lots or 1,000 ft. not just Back to the first road*

3- *Storage of small watercraft on the dune line.*

New Business:

a) *We need to formalize the town board make-ups at the next meeting.*

b) *There are 2 residents who would like to obtain a Delaware real estate brokers lic. They wish to establish and the State of Delaware requires that they do*

establish a physical office in the state they want to establish this office in the rear of there home on Bay Ave. The process is clearly allowed as stated in our town rules.

6. **Upcoming Events**

Next Council meeting – 1-11-2016

7. **Adjournment**

Motion: *Kathy Lock made a motion to adjourn. Amy Parker seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM*

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wood
Secretary